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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/074,905	11/13/2001	Shinpei Namiki	972.1074	6481

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EXAMINER

TORRES, MELANIE

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3683

DATE MAILED: 08/14/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/074,905

Applicant(s)

NAMIKI ET AL.

Examiner

Melanie Torres

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 November 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1. The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because the reference characters are not placed within parentheses. Correction is required. See MPEP § 608.01(b). Further, Applicant is reminded of the proper language and format for an abstract of the disclosure. The abstract should be in narrative form and generally limited to a single paragraph on a separate sheet within the range of 50 to 150 words. It is important that the abstract not exceed 150 words in length since the space provided for the abstract on the computer tape used by the printer is limited.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

3. Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Re claim 1, it is unclear what applicant is claiming in line 4 with respect to the term "relative-rotatably". Clarification and/or correction is required.

Claim 1 recites the limitation "the adjacent oil chambers" in lines 14-15. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Morris et al.

Re claim 1, Morris et al. disclose a damper comprising a shaft member (38) having a shaft and wings formed on the outer periphery of the shaft, a cylindrical casing (12) rotatably incorporating the shaft member, an oil chamber (54H, 54L) provided between the outer periphery of the shaft member and the inner periphery of the casing, a protrusion (50) on the inner periphery of the casing and slidable on the outer periphery of the shaft and a communicating path (68) passed through the shaft to make the communication between a pair of the adjacent oil chambers out of all the oil chambers individually surrounded by the wings and the protrusions, and having at least one of openings which is to be closed by the protrusion provided on the casing within a relative-rotating range of the shaft member. (Fig. 1)

Re claim 2, Morris et al. disclose wherein one of the openings of the communicating path (68) is formed at a position allowing the one opening to open toward the oil chamber at all times within the relative-rotating range of the shaft member.

Re claim 3, Morris et al. disclose wherein the protrusions (50) provided on the casing independently close the openings of both ends of the communicating path within the relative-rotating range of the shaft member.

Re claim 4, Morris et al. disclose wherein the protrusion (50) provided on the casing closes the opening of the communicating path at either one or both of the starting and ending points of a relative rotation of the shaft member (38).

Re claim 5, Morris et al. disclose wherein a plurality of the communicating paths (68) are provided between a pair of the adjacent oil chambers.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hipsher in view of Spoto.

Re claim 6, Hipsher discloses a method of fabricating a damper comprising molding a shaft member (28a) having wings with use of a mold or die, opening a communicating path (32) through the shaft member with use of a perforating tool and

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mounting the shaft member in the casing. (Fig. 3, Column 6, lines 9-14) However, Hopsher does not teach molding a cylindrical casing. Spoto teaches a damper comprising molding a cylindrical casing. (Column 4, lines 14-15) It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have molded the casing of Hopsher as taught by Spoto as the practice of molding cylindrical damper casings is well known for its efficiency and inexpensive cost.

Conclusion

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Anderson and Knurek et al. teach a method of fabricating a damper comprising molding a cylindrical casing and a shaft member with use of a mold or die, opening a communicating path. Aubry et al., Morris et al., and Kobori et al. teach disclose a damper comprising a shaft member having a shaft and wings formed on the outer periphery of the shaft, a cylindrical casing rotatably incorporating the shaft member, an oil chamber provided between the outer periphery of the shaft member and the inner periphery of the casing,


9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Melanie Torres whose telephone number is (703)305-0293. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 6:30 AM - 4:00 PM.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jack Lavinder can be reached on (703)308-3421. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703)308-2571 for regular communications and (703)308-2571 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703)308-1113.

MT
August 7, 2002


R Pamela J. Rodriguez
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3643
8/8/02